

A RESOLUTION OF TO OPPOSING THE LEGALIZATION OF RECREATIONAL (NON-MEDICAL) MARIJUANA

WHEREAS, the Idaho Association of District Boards of Health is committed to the health and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Association of District Boards of Health strongly supports the success and positive future of the State's youth; and

WHEREAS, the sale, distribution, and possession of marijuana remains illegal under State and federal law; and

WHEREAS, studies from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Office of Applied Studies, establishes that marijuana, like cigarettes, is addictive¹; and

WHEREAS, recent analysis from the National Institute on Drug Abuse reveals the potency of marijuana has reached the highest level since scientific analysis of the drug began, with tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) [the principal psychoactive constituent of the cannabis plant] amounts rising from 4 percent in 1980s to 15 percent in 2012²; and

WHEREAS, marijuana concentrates, with potencies of 90 percent THC and above, ³ are becoming more and more common in states that have legalized marijuana, sold on their own or as part of kid-friendly edible products like candy, lollipops, and gummy bears indistinguishable from non-pot-laced products; and

WHEREAS, the higher potency of today's marijuana may be contributing to the substantial increase in the number of teenagers and adults in treatment for marijuana dependence⁴; and

¹ "Is marijuana addictive?" *National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)*. Web. 24 May 2016. Available at <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/marijuana-addictive>.

² "Marijuana: Facts Parents Need to Know," *National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)*. Web. 24 May 2016. Available at <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/marijuana-facts-parents-need-to-know/want-to-know-more-some-facts-about-marijuana>.

³ "Concentrates 101: What's on the market, from kief and CO2 oil to BHO." *The Cannabist*. Web. 24 May 2016. Available at <http://www.thecannabist.co/2015/06/19/marijuana-concentrates-kief-bho-water-hash-co2-oil-wax-shatter/36386/>.

⁴ See, e.g., van der Pol, et al. (2014), Cross-sectional and prospective relation of cannabis potency, dosing and smoking behaviour with cannabis dependence: an ecological study. *Addiction*, 109: 1101–1109.

WHEREAS, in the first two years of legalization in Colorado, arrests of Hispanic and African-American minors rose 29 percent and 58 percent, respectively⁶; and

WHEREAS, marijuana shops in our neighborhoods that sell kid-friendly pot products like candy, lollipops, and gummy bears near where our children live, are a risk to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, Colorado, one of the first states to legalize marijuana, is now ranks first in the nation for marijuana use among 12 to 17 year-olds, according to SAMHSA⁷; and

WHEREAS, marijuana use by minors is strongly associated with other illicit drug use and abuse/dependence,⁸ as well as dependence on tobacco⁹; and

WHEREAS, adults who use marijuana are five times more likely to develop an alcohol problem¹⁰; and

WHEREAS, scientific research establishes that marijuana use is harmful to the adolescent brain, affecting memory, thinking, pleasure, concentration, learning, sensory and time perception, and coordinated movement¹¹; and

⁶ Colorado Department of Public Safety. *Marijuana Legalization in Colorado, Early Findings: A Report Pursuant to Senate Bill 13-283*. N.p.: n.p., n.d. Mar. 2016. Web. 25 May 2016. Available at <http://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/ors/docs/reports/2016-SB13-283-Rpt.pdf>.

⁷ "National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Comparison of 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 Population Percentages (50 States and the District of Columbia)." 2013-2014 *National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Model-Based Prevalence Estimates (50 States and the District of Columbia)*. SAMHSA, n.d. Web. 25 May 2016. Available at: <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUHsaeShortTermCHG2014/NSDUHsaeShortTermCHG2014.htm>.

⁸ Agrawal A, Neale MC, Prescott CA, Kendler KS. A twin study of early cannabis use and subsequent use and abuse/dependence of other illicit drugs. *Psychol Med*. 2004;34(7):1227-1237.

⁹ Panlilio LV, Zanettini C, Barnes C, Solinas M, Goldberg SR. Prior exposure to THC increases the addictive effects of nicotine in rats. *Neuropsychopharmacol Off Publ Am Coll Neuropsychopharmacol*. 2013;38(7):1198-1208.

¹⁰ Weinberger, Andrea H., Jonathan Platt, and Renee D. Goodwin. "Is Cannabis Use Associated With An Increased Risk Of Onset And Persistence Of Alcohol Use Disorders? A Three-Year Prospective Study Among Adults In The United States". *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 161 (2016): 363-367. Web. 25 May 2016.

¹¹ See, e.g., "DrugFacts: Marijuana." *DrugFacts. National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)*, Mar. 2016. Web. 24 May 2016. Available at <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>; Medina et al. "Neuropsychological Functioning in Adolescent Marijuana Users: Subtle Deficits Detectable after a Month of Abstinence." *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society : JINS* 13.5 (2007): 807-820. *PMC*. Web. 24 May 2016, available at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2269704/>.

WHEREAS, primary marijuana abuse accounted for 56 percent of all substance abuse treatment admissions for youth between 15-19 years of age, compared to 24 percent for alcohol, according to SAMHSA 2007 National Treatment Episode Data Set¹²; and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association (AMA), the largest national physician organization in the country, pursuant to H-95.998 AMA Policy Statement on Cannabis, believes that (1) cannabis is a dangerous drug and as such is a public health concern; (2) sale of cannabis should not be legalized; (3) public health based strategies, rather than incarceration, should be utilized in the handling of individuals possessing cannabis for personal use; and (4) additional research should be encouraged¹³; and

WHEREAS, research by J. Jacobus and S. Bava on the functional consequences of marijuana use by adolescents establishes that marijuana use reduces inhibitions and can lead to risky behaviors, distorted perception, impaired coordination, and can cause difficulty with thinking, problem solving and difficulty with learning and memory¹⁴; and

WHEREAS, the threat to public safety caused by use of drugs, including marijuana, in terms of highway safety, criminal activity and domestic violence are well-documented; and

WHEREAS, according to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, marijuana-related traffic fatalities in Washington state doubled from 2012, the year it legalized recreational (non-medical) marijuana, to 2014¹⁵;

WHEREAS, according to the office of the Rocky Mountain High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, traffic fatalities in Colorado in which a driver tested positive for marijuana increased an average of 15 percent per year from 2009 (when medical marijuana became widely commercialized) to 2014¹⁶;

¹² "Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) 1997-2007." *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies*. August 2009. Web. 24 May 2016. Available at <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/teds07/TEDS2k7A508Web.pdf>.

¹³ "H-95.998 AMA Policy Statement on Cannabis." *American Medical Association*. Web. Available at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ssl3/ecom/PolicyFinderForm.pl?site=www.ama-assn.org&uri=/resources/html/PolicyFinder/policyfiles/HnE/H-95.998.HTM>.

¹⁴ Jacobus, J., S. Bava, M. Cohen-Zion, O. Mahmood, and S.f. Tapert. "Functional Consequences of Marijuana Use in Adolescents." *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior* 92.4 (2009): 559-65. Available at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2697065/>.

¹⁵ "Prevalence of Marijuana Use Among Drivers in Fatal Crashes: Washington, 2010-2014." *AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety*. N.p., May 2016. Web. 23 May 2016. Available at <https://www.aaafoundation.org/prevalence-marijuana-use-among-drivers-fatal-crashes-washington-2010-2014>.

¹⁶ "The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact, vol. 3," *Rocky Mountain High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area* (Sep. 2015) (citing data from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), 2006-2013 and CDOT/RMHIDTA 2014). Available at <http://www.rmhidta.org/html/2015%20final%20legalization%20of%20marijuana%20in%20colorado%20the%20impact.pdf>.

WHEREAS, according to Quest Diagnostics, employers in the states of Colorado and Washington have rates of positive workplace marijuana tests well above the national average, and that rate is growing faster in both states than in the United States as a whole¹⁷; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Association of District Boards of Health believes the effort to legalize marijuana is contrary to the interests of the public health, safety and welfare of its citizens, and desires to preserve the rights of citizens to live, work and play in communities where drug abuse is not accepted and citizens are not subjected to the adverse effects of drug abuse; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED, that the Idaho Association of District Boards of Health opposes legalizing the production, sale, distribution and possession of recreational (non-medical) marijuana, hashish, marijuana concentrates, and products made from marijuana concentrates.

Adopted by the Idaho Association of District Boards of Health

Date

Updated Resolution 17-03, Date

¹⁷ "Press Releases." *Quest Diagnostics Newsroom*. Quest Diagnostics, 11 Sept. 2014. Web. 24 May 2016. Available at <http://newsroom.questdiagnostics.com/2014-09-11-Workforce-Drug-Test-Positivity-Rate-Increases-for-the-First-Time-in-10-Years-Driven-by-Marijuana-and-Amphetamines-Finds-Quest-Diagnostics-Drug-Testing-Index-Analysis-of-Employment-Drug-Tests>.